

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/778,993

Examiner

Thierry L. Pham

Applicant(s)

NIMURA ET AL.

Art Unit

2625

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 2/1/07.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1, 3-6, 8-10, 14, 16-19, 21-23, and 40-45 are allowed; renumbered as claims 1-22 (respectively).
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

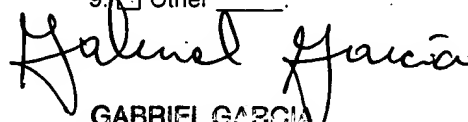
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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DETAILED ACTION

- This action is responsive to the following communication: an Amendment filed on 2/1/07.
- Claims 2, 7, 11-13, 15, 20, 24-39 have been canceled.
- Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, 14, 16-19, 21-23, 40-45 are allowed; renumbered as claims 1-22.

Response to Arguments

Applicant's arguments, see pages 8-9, filed 2/1/07, with respect to independent claims 1, 6, 14, and 19 have been fully considered and are persuasive. The prior art rejection under 103(a) of claims 1, 6, 14, and 19 has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

- Claims 1, 3-6, 8-10, 14, 16-19, 21-23, and 40-45 are allowed; renumbered as claims 1-22 (respectively).
- The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The combined cited prior arts (US 5159546 to Inoue et al; US 4602776 to York et al; US 5207412 to Coons et al) of record teach an image forming apparatus including inputting means, image forming means, stacking means, inserter means, and designating means, but fail to teach and/or suggest a stacking means for stacking plurality of bundles of insert sheets, wherein each bundle has insert sheets corresponding to n pages, which are to be inserted between the sheets having images formed thereon by said image forming apparatus, in a predetermined order of pages in which the insert sheets corresponding to the n pages are to be inserted, and wherein the insert sheets corresponding to the n pages in each bundle are inserted in a single bundle of one copy set including the sheets having the images formed thereon by said image forming means and in combinations of other features in the claims" as cited in independent claims 1, 6, 14, and 19 (renumbered as claims 1, 5, 9, 13 respectively). The examiner found neither prior art cited in its entirety, nor based on the prior art, nor found any motivation to combine any of prior arts that teaches the above

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limitations and in combinations of other features as cited in claims 1, 6, 14, and 19 (renumbered as claims 1, 5, 9, 13 respectively).

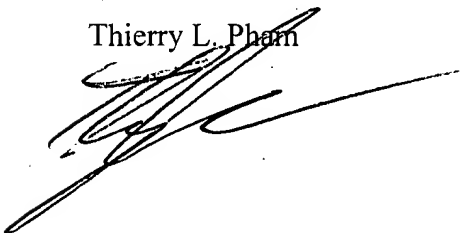
Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thierry L. Pham whose telephone number is (571) 272-7439. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (9:30 AM - 6:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David K. Moore can be reached on (571)272-7437. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Thierry L. Pham



GABRIEL GARCIA
PRIMARY EXAMINER